

BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

AGENDA

Thursday, September 19, 1996

at 1:00 p.m.

Supreme Court - Wilmington

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. Discussion Topic
- III. Reports
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business

Next meeting Scheduled for October 17, 1996

June 21, 1996

To: All members of Bar Bench Media Conference

Re: proposed issue discussions

From: Tammy Brittingham and Judge McKelvie

Thank you to those of you who submitted ideas for discussion topics for meetings this coming year. Judge McKelvie and I have discussed those topics, as well as the format for their presentation. We welcome your thoughts and further suggestions.

FORMAT--Outside speakers will be invited as "resource" people. They will be asked to give a 5-10 minute overview or opening remarks on that month's discussion topic. A 20-30 minute question and answer period will follow.

TOPICS--

- CHANGING COMMUNITY VALUES: Same sex marriage legislation
- THE CHANGING DEFINITION OF OBSCENITY: how is the law adjusting to changing community standards? What is the media and its role as a defender of the First Amendment?
- IMPACT OF POLITICAL DECISIONS ON LITIGATION AND RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS: what is effect of politics on medical malpractice claims/litigation in Delaware?
- PRIVACY: how does the media attempt to balance privacy and public safety issues when reporting ongoing investigations or court coverage?
- Prisoners' rights
- Children's' rights versus those of parents: legal decisions and media coverage of these sensitive issues
- Living wills
- Custody/domestic issues
- Access to public information in the electronic age
- Judicial control of news media activity in and near public buildings such as the courthouse
- How do marketplace pressures impact media coverage decisions?
- As larger media organizations swallow up smaller ones what is effect on local autonomy? Is the legal profession coming under new constraints limiting autonomy as well?
- Content decisions? How are they made and who makes them?
- Media nuts and bolts, press releases, terminology (off-the-record, background etc.)

In addition to these topics, it is also suggested that the Conference consider a day-long program on the Internet touching on the commercial issues, role of media as publishers, legal regulations and First Amendment issues.

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bar-Bench-Media Conference
From: Steve Taylor
Date: May 10, 1995
Re: Media Contacts Updated

The following people have been designated as media contacts, for their respective courts, to be available for after hours inquiries by the media in late breaking stories.

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Supreme Court		
Steve Taylor	656-4673	577-3706
Gayle Lafferty	610-388-1674	577-2794
Court of Chancery		
Richard Kiger	652-2652	577-2819
Ramona Monsen	655-2860	577-2440
Superior Court		
Tom Ralston	239-4439	577-2400 Ext. 252
Felicia Cannon	764-4753	577-2400 Ext. 252
Family Court		
Ed Pollard	328-2722	577-2222
Michael Arrington	652-7964	577-2964

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Court of Common Pleas		
Carole Kirshner	610-296-0419	577-2804
Fred Kirsch	658-3007	577-2430
Justice of the Peace Courts		
Tom Nagle	455-9135	323-4530
New Castle County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Ronald Cheeseman	378-2521	429-7741
Kent County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Charles Stump	697-6649	739-4555
Sussex County		
Deputy Chief Magistrate		
Sheila Blakely	422-2998	856-5250

The Delaware State Bar Association Standing Committee Chair for responses to public comment is Arthur G. Connolly, Jr. who can be contacted at 888-6212.

SDT/dlc

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BAR BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Thursday, September 19, 1996 in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington. The meeting was open to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

Members from the Print News Media

Rita Farrell
John Taylor

Members from the Electronic News Media

Allan R. Loudell
William D. Osborne
Michael Sigman

Members from the Bench

Judge Jay Paul James
Judge Patricia Griffin
Judge Roderick R. McKelvie
Judge Henry duPont Ridgely
Judge John K. Welch

Members from the Bar

Howard M. Handelman, Esquire
Richard D. Kirk, Esquire

Judge McKelvie called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Report of Internet Committee. Judge McKelvie reported that he and Dick Kirk would be proposing that the Conference sponsor a seminar in the Spring on the subject of the Internet. At the next meeting, he and Dick will propose a day for the seminar.

Media Coverage in the Trial Courts Members of the Conference discussed the status of our report to the Delaware Supreme Court on expanding electronic media coverage to the trial courts. Judge McKelvie agreed to put the status of the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion Topic: Same Sex Marriage. The conference then turned to the discussion topic for the meeting: Same Sex Marriage. Guests Jane Monahan, Deborah Gottschalk, Kevin Slattery and David J.J. Facciolo distributed certain written materials, discussed legal and social issues raised by proposals to recognize same sex marriages, alternatives to the proposals and the status of legislation on the topic in Delaware.

Discussion Topic for October 17th Meeting. The discussion topic for the October 17th meeting will be "Privacy." Howard Handleman and Gene Bayard will coordinate the discussion.

Next meeting The next meeting will be in the Delaware Supreme Court Conference Room on Thursday, October 17, 1996. After some discussion, the members of the conference agreed to move the meeting to a new time from 1 P.M. to 2 P.M.

Attachments